placed at the disposal of the VVIPs and VIPs and how many of these were utilised for the purpose during the year 1988 and 1989, till date;

(b) what is the annual expenditure incurred on the maintenance of these aircrafts;

(c) on what conditions these aircrafts are placed at the disposal of the VVIPs and VIPs;

(d) whether it is a fact that a review of procedure regarding procurement, utilisation and maintenance of these aircrafts have shown financial irregularities, uneconomic use of the aircrafts and violation of rules and norms laid down; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof, stating the steps taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) The Air Headquarters Communication Squadron which provides airlifts for VVIPs and VIPs consists of:

2 Boeings	.. ..	(B-737)
6 AVRAS	.. ..	(HS-748)
6Mi-8s		(Helicopter)

All these aircraft have been used for VVIP/VIP airlifts during 1988 and till date in 1989.

(b) The annual expenditure incurred on the maintenance of these aircraft varies from year to year. In the year 1988, it was Rs. 3.41 crores.

(c) The conditions which govern the use of aircraft by VVIPs/VIPs are laid down in Government orders on the subject issued from time to time.

(d) and (e) These issues have figured in Audit Para No. 4 contained in the CAG's Report for the year 1987-88 (Defence Services—Air Force and Navy) which was laid in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th May, 1989. As per the prescribed procedure, a period of six months is provided to the Ministries for forwarding Action Taken Notes in respect of Audit Paras.

Opening of Medical Colleges in Rajasthan

1610. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Medical Council has formulated certain norms to set up medical colleges in States on the basis of population;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether, in accordance with the norms laid down by the Indian Medical Council, Government propose to set up medical colleges in Rajasthan during the Eighth Five Year Plan period;

(d) if so, what decision, if any, has been taken by Government in this regard; and

(e) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) The Indian Medical Council have not formulated any norms for setting up of medical colleges in the States on the basis of population. However, a proposal to amend the Indian Medical Council Act, enabling the Council to consider the request for establishment of new medical colleges on the basis of certain criteria, including the requirement of manpower in the field of practice of medicine is before the Joint Committee of Parliament.

1611. *(Cancelled.)*

Setting up of a Federal Investigation Agency

1612. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have stressed the need for setting up a federal investigating agency in view of the rising rate of inter-State crimes;

(b) whether this subject was discussed during the three day Conference of Central Bureau of Investigation officers in New Delhi; and

(c) what other subjects were discussed and whether the conference accepted the suggestion for setting up of a federal investigation agency; if so, by when it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) During the Conference of CBI officers, held recently, the problem of investigating inter-State crimes was generally discussed, amongst other subjects pertaining to organisational matters of CBI. No conclusions were arrived at.

Achievements of Antarctica Stations

1613. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state what achievements have been made by India by the establishment of first two stations at Antarctica?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): The establishment of year-round permanent research stations in Antarctica has enabled Indian scientists to gain first hand knowledge in the frontier areas of Antarctic research, especially in the fields of geology, geophysics, metereology, biology, oceanography, geomagnetism and atmospheric physics. The scientific investigations have enabled India to participate in the Antarctic Treaty system and to promote its goals. The knowledge gathered about this unique polar environment has also been utilised in the design and development of indigenous infrastructure, living and working facilities in Antarctica.

US Denial of Space Launch Vehicle Testing Equipment to India

1614. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
KUMARI SAYEEDA KHATUN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bush administration has decided to ban export of space launch vehicle testing equipment to India, as it would find use in India's missile programme according to U.S. officials; if so, what alternative arrangements Government has made;

(b) whether Government have taken up the issue with the United States Government; if so, what is the response of U.S. in this regard; and

(c) what is the latest U.S. policy regarding transfer of high technology to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Over the years, United States has been imposing restrictions on the export of sophisticated equipment and components needed for the development of space technology. Continuous attempts are made to identify alternate sources for such items and also accelerate building of indigenous capability, in all such areas to ensure that the programme is not affected.

(b) The issue concerning embargo has been taken up with the U.S. administration through Ministry of External Affairs and a mechanism evolved to deal with the clearances of sophisticated technology items, on a case by case basis. This has resulted in facilitating the export clearance of atleast some of the critical items/components from USA.

(c) The Department of Space has not sought transfer of any high technology from USA being fully aware of the gene-